Price of bread

. *252. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Willi the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of bread has been raised recently;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the price of bread during the last one year till date stating the extent of rise each time; and

(c) what are the reasons for the constant rise in the prices of bread stating its likely impact on the common man and the steps contemplated by Government to stabilise its prices at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CTVTL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bread price in Delhi for 400 gms. loaf was raised from 1. 45 to 155 and that of 800 gms. loaf from Rs. 2. 80 to Rs. 3. 00 with effect from 2-2-1987. There is no control on prices of bread any where else in the country. This was the first revision allowed after 7-2-1986. The present increase in prices of bread works out to about 7 per cent.

(c) Increase in the price of bread is on account of increase in the prices of inputs used in making bread. The increase is modest and takes into ac-court all aspects including consumers interest.

Modernisation of Primary Agricul-rai Credit Societies

263. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: SHRI VTSHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICUL . TURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by . Government to modernise fhe Primary Agricultural Credit Societies; and

(b) whether Government propose to improve the credit facilities and to ensure their proper utilisation so as to relieve the marginal farmers from excessive debt burdens?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL. TURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) In order to strengthen the existing Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSs) to enable them to cater to the needs of the farming com. munity with special reference to credit, the Central Government had deck ded to implement a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for integrated co-operative development in 250 blocks in 50 districts in the country during the Seve. nth Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 150 crore. This Scheme is imp. lemented through the National Co. operative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Scheme aims at increasing the volume and range of activi. ties and services provided by the PACSs to the farming community by strengthening infrastructure facilities like office, godown, cash safe, counters and consumers shop. The Scheme also provides for working capital and training to the staff members of PACSs.

With a view to improving the quality of loans and supervision over utilisation of credit, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had launched in March 1984, pilot projects for strengthening the credit delivery system in three districts namely, Aurangabad (Maharashtra), Hoshangabad (Madh-ya Pradesh) and Babarkantha (Guj. arat). Keeping in view the encouraging results, the pilot project has now been extended to 17 more distric's in the country. As a part of the pilot project, NABARD has launched a 15. point programme for development of selected PACSs. The measures to develop the societies include strengthen-in? the operational effieiencv of the institution!; in terms of manpower, financial resources, procedural formal?-